THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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Ameen Sayani: Voice of the nation falls silent

Ameen Sayani, radio's most recognised voice that struck an instant chord with millions of Indians who tuned in to Binaca Geetmala every week for 42 years, has died. He was 91. His last rites will be held on Thursday. He is still remembered for his greeting at the start his programme: "*Namaste behno aur bhaiyo, main aapka dost Ameen Sayani bol raha hoon*," P9

Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee
Prosperous Farmers, Prosperous Nation
Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat
Scan for more information
5 fold rise in agriculture budget in last 10 years; Loan facility of ₹ 1 lakh crore under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

1 killed, 25 injured in farmer-police clash, Delhi march put off

12 Haryana police personnel hurt; farmers to decide future course of action on Friday

Protesters run for cover as a tear gas canister fired by Haryana police explodes near the Shambhu border point between Punjab and Haryana on Wednesday | PTI

Distressed UP farmer attempts self-immolation

A farmer tried to set himself on fire near a dharna site in Muzaffarnagar in UP on Wednesday. The fire was doused in time by others. City Magistrate Vikash Kashyap said the farmer, Brijpal, had a loan-related issue, which would be addressed soon. The farmer is out of danger

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

AGITATING Punjab farmers on Wednesday put on hold their Dilli Chalo march for two days after a 21-year-old protester was killed and 25 others were injured in clashes with Haryana police personnel at Khanauri on the Punjab-Haryana border. Haryana police said 12 of their officials were also injured when the protesters attacked them with sticks and stones.

Dr H S Rekhi, the medical superintendent of Rajindra Hospital at Patiala, said three persons were brought to the hospital. One of them was brought dead, with an injury on his head. The post-mortem report is awaited. The other two are stable, Rekhi said.

The farmers had resumed their agitation in the morning at Khanauri and Shambhu after a two-day lull, after four rounds of talks with the Centre remained inconclusive.

The police fired rubber bullets and dropped tear gas shells on the protesting farmers at the Shambhu and Khanauri borders when they tried to breach the barricades. The protesters were seen holding iron shields, distributing salt, and wearing gas masks to protect themselves from assault.

The situation at both the protest sites remained tense after the death of the farmer. Sixteen farmers suffered injuries at the Khanauri border while nine were hurt in clashes at the Shambhu point. All of them had minor injuries.

Meanwhile, the Centre offered to hold the fifth round of talks in an attempt to break the deadlock. The farmer leaders are yet to respond.

Sarwan Singh Pandher, general secretary of Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, said they will take a call on Friday. Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait said the protest will continue.

In its reply to the Union home ministry's letter flagging large gatherings along the Punjab-Haryana border, the Punjab government on Wednesday said at least 160 people from the state have been injured due to firing of tear gas shells and rubber bullets by Haryana police.

Now, even pvt schools must sing state anthem

The Kannada and Culture Department, which had in an earlier order excluded private schools from singing the state anthem, confirmed through a new government order on Wednesday that all schools should do so. P4

Bill to stop cigarette sale to those under 21 passed

The Karnataka Assembly on Wednesday unanimously passed a Bill to ban hookah bars and the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products to those below the age of 21 across the state. P4

MEGA SURVEY TO FIND IMPACT OF GUARANTEES

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Congress government will conduct a massive survey to know the impact of the implementation of its five guarantee schemes in the state, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

For the survey, 1.2 lakh "guarantee volunteers" will be appointed. ASHA and anganwadi workers and employees of other departments will be appointed as "volunteers". They will be paid Rs 1,000 each for the survey to be conducted across the state in 10 to 15 days.

As per the Government Order (GO), Rs 12 crore will be provided for the survey from the allocation made for the Gruha Lakshmi scheme. In the 2024-25 budget, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah allocated Rs 52,000 crore for Gruha Jyothi, Anna Bhagya, Shakthi, Yuva Nidhi and Gruha Lakshmi schemes. During its campaign for the Assembly elections, the Congress had promised to implement the guarantees schemes if voted to power.

After a resounding victory in the Assembly elections, the Congress government implemented them in a phased manner.

CONTINUED ON: P4

BBMP for guidance value-based tax assessment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE BBMP proposes to introduce a guidance value-based tax assessment system in its limits.

It published a draft notification in this regard on Tuesday and invited objections from property owners to be filed within 15 days.

Under the proposed system, property owners in the heart of the city are likely to pay more taxes.

Under the existing system, the BBMP is collecting tax based on the Unit Area Value (UAV), which is based on expected returns from the property, depending upon its location and the nature of its usage.

Under the proposed system, taxation will be based on the guidance value fixed by the Revenue Department. If it comes into force, a property owner will have to pay taxes based on the area where his property is located and the guidance value specified to that locality.

CONTINUED ON: P2

17-year-old boy tied to pole, beaten up in Bengaluru

PRAVEEN KUMAR @Bengaluru

A 17-year-old boy is undergoing treatment in a private hospital after he was allegedly tied to a pole and beaten up with belts and sticks by eight labourers near Upkar Layout on RTO Road in Jnanabharathi police limits.

The incident happened on Monday at an under construction building between 2 am and 3.30 am. P3

SP, Cong clinch deal for seats in UP, MP

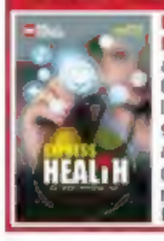
NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

AFTER seven years, *UP Ke Ladke* (Boys of UP), a 2017 slogan, are together again as the SP and the Congress clinched their seat-sharing deal in UP on Wednesday for the Lok Sabha elections.

Of the total 80 seats in UP, the SP allotted 17 to the Congress. While the SP could accommodate a few other small allies, the Nagina seat may be spared for Bhim Army chief Chandrasekhar Azad. The deal went beyond UP as the Congress let Akhilesh's party contest from Khajuraho in MP. In UP, the Congress was allotted Raebareli and Amethi, besides Varanasi. The other seats included Kanpur (Nagar), Fatehpur Sikri, Bansgaon, Saharanpur, Prayagraj, Maharajganj, Amroha, Jhansi, Bulandshahr, Ghaziabad, Mathura, Sitapur, Barabanki and Deoria.

The Congress first pitched for 25 seats, scaled it down to 21 before settling for 17.

With This Issue



Express Health, a 36-Page Booklet on healthcare sector and the prominent players in Bengaluru.

Priyanka brokers truce

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi brokered the truce between the allies by discussing the issue with brother Rahul, followed by a phone call to Akhilesh.

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FALI NARIMAN

End of an era in India's legal history

10 JANUARY 1929 - 21 FEBRUARY 2024

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @New Delhi

ONE of India's foremost constitutional experts, Fali S Nariman passed away in Delhi in the early hours of Wednesday. He was 95.

Born in Rangoon, now Yangon, on January 10, 1929, his family fled to India during the Japanese invasion when he was 12. Nariman was one of the last legal luminaries who honed their skills in the chambers of Jamshedji Behramji Kanga in Mumbai, alumni that included Soli Sorabjee and Nani Palkhivala.

The departure of the *Bhishma pitamah* of jurists signalled the end of an era. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his tribute said Nariman was among the most outstanding legal minds, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud remembered him as a great giant of an intellectual.

Nariman was part of several landmark verdicts that helped shape modern India, including the Kesavanand Bharati case in which the Supreme Court laid down the basic structure doctrine.

Ethics was at the heart of his most consequential decisions. He resigned as additional solicitor general as soon as Emergency was declared in 1975. As a senior Supreme Court advocate, he dedicated the next few decades in strengthening various facets of law, including establishing judicial review of constitutional amendments, the collegium system, and minority rights in educational institutions. He admitted later that he wasn't right in appearing for Union Carbide in the Bhopal gas leak case.

In the assets case against former Tamil Nadu chief minister J Jayalalithaa, he represented her in 2014 and got her bail. In the inter-state Cauvery water dispute case, he represented Karnataka.

Nariman was prolific as an author, writing more than a dozen books and penning numerous columns, including for this newspaper. He is survived by his son, former SC justice Rohinton Nariman, daughter-in-law and daughter.

CHISELLED MIND

Very few lawyers like Nariman have enriched the Court with their skills and their moral stature, writes senior advocate Kapil Sibal | Edit page